

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
NORTHERN DIVISION**

MISSISSIPPI STATE CONFERENCE OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE; DR.
ANDREA WESLEY; DR. JOSEPH WESLEY;
ROBERT EVANS; GARY FREDERICKS; PAMELA
HAMNER; BARBARA FINN; OTHO BARNES;
SHIRLINDA ROBERTSON; SANDRA SMITH;
DEBORAH HULITT; RODESTA TUMBLIN; DR.
KIA JONES; MARCELEAN ARRINGTON;
VICTORIA ROBERTSON,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

STATE BOARD OF ELECTION COMMISSIONERS;
TATE REEVES, *in his official capacity as Governor of
Mississippi*; LYNN FITCH, *in her official capacity as
Attorney General of Mississippi*; MICHAEL WATSON,
*in his official capacity as Secretary of State of
Mississippi*,

Defendants,

AND

MISSISSIPPI REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE,

Intervenor-Defendant.

**CIVIL ACTION NO.
3:22-cv-734-DPJ-HSO-LHS**

**MOTION BY AMICUS CURIAE DESOTO COUNTY
FOR LEAVE TO FILE LETTER BRIEF**

DeSoto County, Mississippi (“DeSoto County” or “the County”), as amicus curiae, respectfully requests leave to file a letter brief addressing the relevance of traditional redistricting principles to remedying a Section 2 violation, stating the following in support:

1. DeSoto County is a political subdivision of the State of Mississippi and has a significant interest in maintaining constitutional representation for its citizens in the Mississippi Legislature.

2. DeSoto County was previously granted leave to file its Brief of Amicus Curiae in support of Plaintiffs' objections to the remedial districting plans recently adopted by the Mississippi Legislature. *See* 3/21/2025 Text Only Order; *see also* Brief of Amicus Curiae [251].

3. On April 15, 2025, this Court entered its Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law [254], concluding, among other things, that the new maps drawn by the Mississippi Legislature remedied the Section 2 violations except as to the Senate districts in the DeSoto County interest area. The Court further ordered the parties to docket letter briefs on the relevance of traditional redistricting principles when imposing a remedy for a Section 2 violation. *Id.*; *see also* 4/17/2025 Text Only Order.

4. DeSoto County's proposed Letter Brief is necessary to address the relevance of traditional redistricting principles to remedying a Section 2 violation in the County interest area and to ensure compliance with all state and federal laws.

5. In support of this Motion, DeSoto County offers a supporting memorandum of law as well as the following exhibit: **Exhibit 1**, Proposed Letter Brief.

6. Although it does not appear that leave is required for DeSoto County to file its proposed letter brief since it has already obtained leave to participate as amicus curiae, DeSoto County contacted counsel for the parties out of an abundance of caution to inquire whether they intended to oppose its request for leave. As of filing this motion, Plaintiffs do not intend to oppose

the County's request, but Defendants have not indicated whether they intend to oppose the request.¹

For these reasons, and those more fully explained in its supporting memorandum, DeSoto County respectfully requests leave of this Court to file the attached Letter Brief.

Dated: April 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

PHELPS DUNBAR LLP

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¹ The State Board of Election Commissioners indicated it could not determine whether it intended to oppose the request until it had an opportunity to review the County's proposed letter brief.

**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH TYPE-VOLUME
LIMITATION, TYPEFACE REQUIREMENTS
AND TYPE STYLE REQUIREMENTS**

1. This brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed R. App. P. 29(b)(4) and Local Rule 7(b)(5) because, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(f), it is 349 words.

2. This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Local Rule 7(b)(5) because it has been prepared in proportionally-spaced typeface, including serifs, using Word, in Times New Roman 12-point font, except for the footnotes, which are in proportionally-spaced typeface, including serifs, using Word in Times New Roman 11-point font.

Dated: April 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Nicholas F. Morisani

Nicholas F. Morsani

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 22, 2025, I electronically filed this document with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system, which sent notification of such filing to all ECF counsel of record in this action:

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